Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /077 W

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P R 090905Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9125

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 20219

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PGOV, VT, CZ

SUBJ: VATICAN/CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CASE OF BISHOP OF TRNAVA

- 1. VATICAN OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT EARLY THIS WEEK IT RECEIVED PRESS REPORTS THAT MONSIGNOR JULIUS GABRIS, BISHOP OF TRNAVA, HAD SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK FOLLOWING INTERROGATION BY CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES REGARDING STATEMENTS HE MADE AT THE RECENT SYNOD OF BISHOPS WHICH WAS HELD IN ROME SEPT. 29 OCT. 31. ALTHOUGH THE VATICAN IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM GOC THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS, VATICAN OFFICIAL HAS ASKED US TO INQUIRE OF EMBASSY PRAGUE IF IT HAS ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT CLARIFY PRESS REPORTS.
- 2. VATICAN OFFICIAL EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER THE EVENT, SAYING THAT THE VATICAN WAS ABOUT TO HAND OVER TO THE GOC A PRO-MEMORIA REGARDING OUTSTANDING ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION IN THE NEXT GROUND OF GOC/VATICAN NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE TO BE SCHEDULED, AT GOC REQUEST, FOR FIRST HALF OF JANUARY, 1978. HE ALSO SAID THAT EVENT, IF CONFIDENTIAL

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TRUE, APPEARS TO BE INCONGRUOUS WITH ANOTHER EVENT WHICH HAPPENED NOVEMBER 26. HE WAS REFERRING TO THE FORMAL CRITICISM BY THE PARTY NEWSPAPER (RUDO PRAVDA) ON SHOWING OF FILM ON CZECHOSLOVAK TV WHICH ATTACKED THE CHURCH AND THE POPE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION

| RELATING TO BISHOP GABRIS WHICH MAY HAVE | COME |
|--|------|
| TO THE ATTENTION OF EMBASSY PRAGUE.GARDN | ER |

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Message Attributes

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Subject: VATICAN/CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CASE OF BISHOP OF TRNAVA

TAGS: PGOV, VT, CZ, (GABRIS, JULIUS)
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